

KING — by right of the sacred snake

ON reaching our hut I motioned to Infadoos to enter with us.

"It seems to us, Infadoos, that Twala the king is a cruel man."

"It is so, my lords. Alas! the land cries out with his cruelties. To-night ye will see. It is the great witch-hunt, and many will be smelt out as wizards and slain. If the king covets a man's cattle, or a man's life, then Gagool, whom ye saw, will smell that man out as a wizard, and he will be killed. The land groans at the cruelties of Twala the king; it is wearied of him and his red ways."

"Then why is it, Infadoos, that the people do not cast him down?"

"Nay, my lords, he is the king, and if he were killed Scragga would reign in his place, and the heart of Scragga is blacker than the heart of Twala his father. If Imotu had never been slain, or if Ignosi his son had lived, it had been otherwise; but they are both dead."

"How know you that Ignosi is dead?" said a voice behind us. "We looked round with astonishment to see who spoke. It was Umbopa."

QUIZ for today

1. A soft is a sweetmeat, drink, work-box, panelled ceiling, rabbit trap, part of a harness?

2. What name is given to a group of (a) larks, (b) nightingales?

3. For what boys' names are the following "short"? Pip, Wat, Huggin.

4. What and where are (a) Aran, (b) Arran?

5. What is extracted from haematite?

6. Which of the following are mis-spelt? Positive, Fortitude, Forensic, Paralellogram, Hexagon.

Answers to Quiz in No. 490

- Young eel.
- (a) Fesnyng, (b) Skulk.
- Margaret, Mary, Janet.
- Snowdon (3,560 feet).
- Aluminium.
- Veterinary, Vulnerable.

INTELLIGENCE TEST—No. 14

1. Rearrange the following words to make a sentence, and then state if it is true or false: Sun the every the planets once go day round.

2. Which of the following is an intruder, and why? 8/72, 7/56, 3/51, 4/62, 5/83, 6/74.

3. When Bert said "Eton," Harry said "Plough." What word linked these two ideas in Harry's mind?

4. "But, my dear man," said Bill's employer, "either you went somewhere, with or without a reason, or you didn't go at all. Which was it?" Bill replied, "I didn't never not go nowhere, I didn't, not 'av ing no reason." Did Bill go, or didn't he? And if he did, had he a reason?

(Answers in No. 492.)

Answers to Test No. 13.

1. Both are light brown, natural products, good to eat; both have shells and inner skins, and contain fats, carbohydrates, proteins and the germs of life.

2. Tall could not apply to liquids; others could.

3. 5.

4. Because a night-watchman has no business to be asleep at nights.

guard of twenty men to escort "Greeting, white lords," he us to the dance. We had already, cried, as we came up; "be as he recommended, donned the seated, waste not the precious shirts of chain armour which the time—the night is all too short king had sent us, putting them on for the deeds that must be done.

"Now for business," I put in, under our ordinary clothing. Then Look round, white lords; look anxious to escape from a painful strapping our revolvers round our round," and he rolled his one subject. "It is very well to be a waists, and taking the battle-axes wicked eye from regiment to regi-

ment. "Can the stars show you such a sight as this? See how they

On arriving at the great kraal, shake in their wickedness, all with some twenty thousand men and fear the judgment of Heaven arranged in regiments round it above."

"Begin! begin!" cried out Gagool in her thin piercing voice; "the hyenas are hungry, they howl for food."

(To be continued)

KING SOLOMON'S MINES

By the courtesy of the executors of RIDER HAGGARD

"What meanest thou, boy?" tell him that so far as I am con- asked Infadoos; "who told thee I'm his boy?" I translated these answers.

"Listen, Infadoos," was the answer, "and I will tell thee a Ignosi, late Umbopa; "and what how dost thou propose to become a started.

Years ago the King Imotu sayest thou, Macumazahn, art king indeed?"

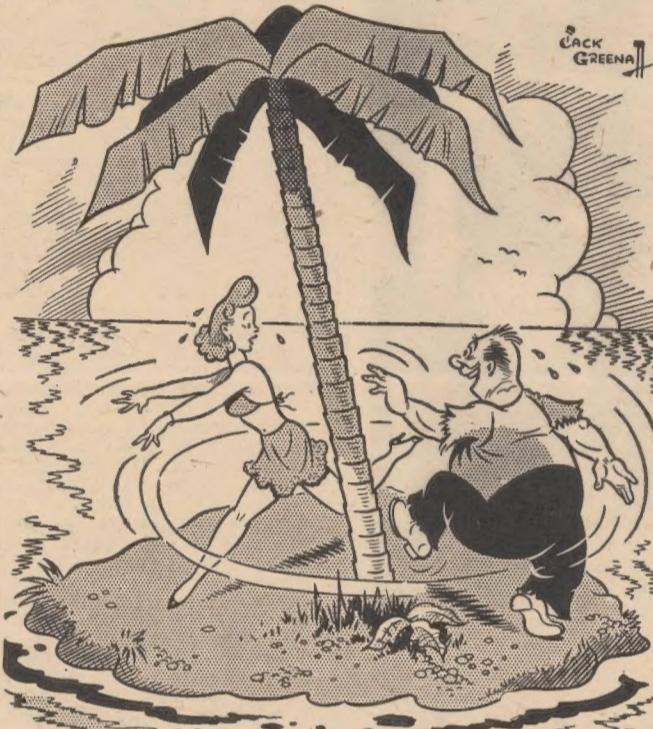
story. Years ago the King Imotu sayest thou, Macumazahn, art king indeed?"

was killed in this country, and his son too with me, old hunter, "Nay, I know not. Infadoos, we found that it was closely packed those who have evil in their hearts

wife fled with the boy Ignosi, cleverer than a wounded buffaloo?" hast thou a plan?"

I thought awhile and scratched my head.

"Ignosi, son of the lightning," answered his uncle, "I will speak



"Really, Mr. Ponkinhorn! What do you expect to gain by all this?"

"Umbopa, or Ignosi," I said, to some of the great chiefs, who in "I don't like revolutions, but turn, if I can win them over, shall I stick to my friends, Ignosi. You speak to their regiments. I shall have stuck to us and I will stick bring them to see that thou art to you. But mind you, I am indeed the king, and I think that trader, and have to make my living, by to-morrow's light thou shalt so I accept your offer about those have twenty thousand spears at diamonds. Another thing: we thy command."

Infadoos looked, his eyes starting nearly out of his head, and then fell upon his knees.

"Koom! Koom!" he ejaculated; "it is my brother's son; it is the king."

"Did I not tell thee so, my uncle? Rise; I am not yet the king, but with thy help, and with the help of these brave white men, who are my friends, I shall be. And now, Infadoos, choose thou. Wilt thou put thy hands between my hands and be my man? Wilt thou share the dangers that lie before me, and help me to overthrow this tyrant and murderer?"

The old man put his hand to his head and thought. Then he rose, and advancing to where Umbopa, or rather Ignosi, stood, knelt before him and took his hand.

"Ignosi, rightful king of the Kukuanas, I put my hand between thy hands, and am thy man till death."

"It is well, Infadoos; if I conquer, thou shalt be the greatest man in the kingdom after the king. If I fail, thou canst only die, and death is not far off for thee."

"And ye, white men, will ye help me? What have I to offer you! The white stones, if I conquer and can find them, ye shall have as many as ye can carry hence. Will that suffice you?"

I translated this remark.

"Tell him," answered Sir Henry, "that he mistakes an Englishman. Wealth is good, and if it comes our way we will take it; but a gentleman does not sell himself for wealth. But, speaking for myself, I say this. I have always liked Umbopa, and so far as lies in me will stand by him in this business. What do you say, Good, and you, Quatermain?"

"Well," said Good, "you can

At this moment our conference was interrupted by the cry that messengers had come from the king. Three men entered, each bearing a shining shirt of chain armour, and a magnificent battle-axe.

"The gifts of my lord the king to the white men from the stars," exclaimed a herald who came with them.

"None, O Ignosi."

"Thou hearest, Incubu," said Ignosi to Sir Henry; "he has not been here."

"Well, well," said Sir Henry, with a sigh; "there it is; I suppose he never got here. God's will be done."

The men went, and we examined the armour with great interest. It was the most beautiful chain work we had ever seen.

The rest of the day we spent resting and talking over the situation, which was sufficiently exciting. Infadoos arrived, clad in full war dress, and accompanied by a

1. Insert five consonants in: *E*E*E*, and make a common word.

2. Rearrange the letters of MEN AT ARMS and get their weapons.

3. In the following three aircraft the same number stands for the same letter throughout. What are they? 152946S, 348294L, 35668C724.

4. Find the two vessels hidden in: Let's go to the Regal; Leon Feuchtwanger is playing there, and I'll ask if four seats are available.

WANGLING WORDS—430

1. Insert five consonants in: *E*E*E*, and make a common word.

2. Rearrange the letters of MEN AT ARMS and get their weapons.

3. In the following three aircraft the same number stands for the same letter throughout. What are they? 152946S, 348294L, 35668C724.

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Answers to Wangling Words—No. 429

1. ABSTEMIOUS.

2. DIABOLO, SKIPPING, HOP-SCOTCH.

3. Lancaster, Liberator, Dornier, Anson.

4. Major, D-rum-mer.

CROSSWORD CORNER



CLUES ACROSS.

1. Harm.

6. Young animal.

9. Number.

10. Emit in

vapour.

11. Zealous.

13. Whittle.

15. Maiden.

16. Apple.

18. Cloth edge.

20. Gull.

21. Tin.

23. Sportsmen.

26. Road.

29. Empty spaces.

31. Sop.

32. Sarcastic.

34. Black alloy.

35. Space of time.

36. Glass.

37. Loving.

CLUES DOWN.

1. Deer.

2. Light red.

3. Boy's name.

4. Bird.

5. Addition.

6. Slight mistake.

7. Unfortunately.

8. Lake.

12. Measure.

14. Name of jacket.

17. Ill-favoured.

19. Rodent.

20. Skip.

21. Stretched.

22. Unlevel.

25. Self.

27. Harmonise.

28. Precipitation.

30. Cicatrice.

33. Eggs.

ROCK, GOLFER

ABEAM, WEAVE

VENT, ENAMEL

ESTEEM, DENY

LEA, RUSE, T

SLOG, ARC, S

M, WORN, RAP

COOL, ADDUCE

HOMILY, RITE

ANISE, BASED

PYTHON, BEDS



BEELZEBUB JONES



BELINDA



POPEYE



RUGGLES



GARTH



JUST JAKE



Drop a Postcard

Says RONALD GARTH

JUST 75 years ago a Viennese colour-printer named Herrmann wanted a fresh market for his wares, so he invented the world's first picture postcard.

He didn't guess that within twelve months the novelty would have spread to every other country in Europe and boom until, in Great Britain alone, 700,000,000 postcards were being delivered every year.

Poor Mr. Herrmann was so slow, in fact, that his competitors soon put him out of business.

The postal authorities didn't at first quite know what to make of postcards. One microscopic writer squeezed a bumper letter of 15,000 words long—a fourth of a detective novel—on to a p.c. Originally, the number of permissible words, including a signature and address, was limited to twenty.

People used to collect postcards, and stowed them away in albums. Many are still collectors' items, especially complete series of Edwardian musical comedy queens. One man once papered his house with postcards of Marie Studholme, of Gaiety fame.

An astute bargain-hunter afterwards bought the house and made £200 by selling the cards, for they were a world rarity—a complete Marie Studholme set.

Most expensive of all cards were made to the order of an Indian prince, and gave artists of his state six months' work.

Forty elephants were killed before tusks of exactly the right quality for the thin ivory card were obtained, yet some of these extravagant cards have since changed hands for a few shillings.

You have seen those seaside cards that depict fat old ladies in vivid red bathing costumes? Many were designed by Jerry Wilson. He sold his comic sketches to postcard manufacturers on a royalty basis, and died worth £10,000.

Another lucrative branch of the trade deals merely in postcards as curios. Not a few globetrotters have walked their way round the world merely by selling signed picture-postcards of themselves.

Museums have made profits from postcards of their treasures ever since the idea was first launched at the British Museum.

In England the first postcards cost a shilling, and are worth £50 to £60 to-day. But where do all the postcards go? Anyway, picture-postcard manufacture has been banned in Britain for the past three or four years.

THE HOUSE NEXT DOOR

About twenty-five years ago there was a "mystery house" in Rotherhithe, rapidly growing more and more deserted. No one could remember who used to live in it. It had been empty for at least twelve years, getting more and more dilapidated. Then the acute need for accommodation led the local authority to see if it could not be repaired and brought back into use. They felt the owner would turn up.

Workmen engaged in the repairs got a shock. Neatly carved out of the chimney was a cavity, and in it the body of a child! The body was past identifying, nor was the mystery of how it got there ever solved. It could only be guessed that some tragedy had overtaken the occupants, who had buried the child and fled, leaving no trace. This house, like most abandoned houses, was supposed to be haunted, and the neighbours claimed that after the child was properly buried they were not again troubled by strange noises from next door.

Alex Cracks

First Little Girl: "Does your dolly say 'Mamma' when you squeeze her?"

Second Little Girl: "No, that's old-fashioned. She says 'Oh, boy!'"

Tourist: "Do they hang men very often round here?"

Dead Man's Gulcher: "Nope, only once."

Bill: "Five thousand seals were used to make fur coats last year."

Jill: "Amazing how they train animals for such work."

"With the money I made to-day I shall be able to retire."

"What? On those few shillings?"

"Yes! They pay the instalment on my bed."

Violet: "What a lovely new necklace! How much did it cost?"

Vera: "Three fits of hysteria."

Good Morning

DOG (house) WATCH !



" COOM BUTTERCUPS,
COOM DAISIES,
COOM TULIPS "

We just know she's a lassie from Lancashire. How? On account of we've known her since she was in short pants—and our own breath used to come the same way!



"Say, fellow. You been got in dat dog-house again? Oh, my! Yore Mammy ain't go'n sing 'Mighty Lak a Rose' thissem."

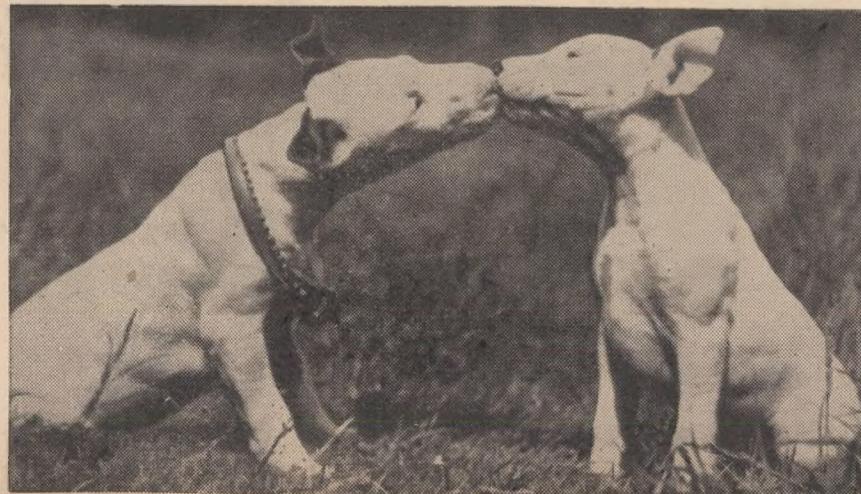


She's sure clapped a wicked-looking head scissors on him this time. Takes a powerful good wrassler to break that hold.



This England

Fishing trawlers hauled high on to the mud, the nets drying in the sun. This is a scene that has repeated itself at Brixham, South Devon, through the generations.



PUPPY LOVE

Scorning all personal risk, we snapped this rare and idyllic scene: two bull terriers in an interval between scrapping.

OUR CAT SIGNS OFF

"The big cissies!"

